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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY 25X1 REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT 1. First Chief Directorate of the Council of Ministers

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2. Atomic Energy and Biological Warfare Projects

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

General Organization

- 25X1 1. [] the Directorate []
- 25X1 [] was established shortly after the end of the war in Europe to
- 25X1 exercise over-riding control of all armament development and of war
- 25X1 potential in general. It is a high-level industrial planning and co-
- 25X1 ordinating organization, described [] as a "nerve center" and
- 25X1 "the technical brain and technical supplier of the Armed Forces".
- 25X1 2. The Directorate is immediately responsible to the Council of Ministers
- 25X1 of the USSR through Beriya. Under Beriya is a Collegium, or directing
- 25X1 committee, consisting of ministers who are concerned with the activities
- 25X1 of the Directorate and, probably, one or more representatives of the
- 25X1 Academy of Sciences. The Directorate is much more important and powerful
- 25X1 than any ministry, and individual ministers are bound to carry out its
- 25X1 instructions.
- 25X1 3. [] the Directorate contains about 80 separate depart-
- 25X1 ments, with a total "directing staff" of 2,000 to 3,000. ([] Comment:
- 25X1 [] "directing staff" [] means responsible officers. The
- 25X1 figure of 80 departments was given with some confidence, but that for
- 25X1 total staff is considered to be little better than a guess.)

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4. The Directorate is located in Moscow, [redacted] it is not completely centralized but occupies five or six offices in various parts of the city.

5. The title "First Chief Directorate" does not imply that there are, or are likely to be, other directorates in a series. [redacted] the word "First" was included in the title to emphasize the supreme importance of this organization.

Activities

6. [redacted] a sharp distinction between projects which it directly controls and those over which it exercises indirect control through one or more ministries.

7. The First Chief Directorate directly controls research institutes, plants, and factories working on "special subjects", i.e., subjects which are not covered by existing ministerial organizations. [redacted]

[redacted] the atomic energy project is under the direct control of the Directorate, and [redacted] this accounts for about 70 percent of the Directorate's effort. Direct control would not necessarily include all research, since the Directorate is an industrial rather than a scientific organization; and it is probable that fundamental research on nuclear physics is in progress in laboratories controlled by other authorities, such as the Academy of Sciences, with indirect control and general planning by the Directorate. [redacted]

[redacted] there is a pilot plant of some sort within 100 km. of Moscow. [redacted]

8. In fields where there is already a ministerial organization in existence, the First Chief Directorate does not directly control the research institutes or plants but exercises indirect control through the parent ministry and is responsible generally for planning, priorities, and allocation of supplies. For example, all jet aircraft projects are directly controlled by the Ministry of Aviation, under the over-riding authority of the Directorate.

9. [redacted]

[redacted] The Ministry of Health and the Soviet Army have well established microbiological research and development organizations, and it would be unnecessary for the Directorate to run its own research stations. [redacted] any biological warfare pilot plant would be under the direct control of the Soviet Army. The Directorate would, however, exercise indirect control over the whole project through the ministries concerned, as in the case of aircraft development. [redacted] Comment: [redacted]

[redacted] mention of the Ministry of Health in this connection should be taken as an example of the principle that the First Chief Directorate does not take over direct control of existing research organizations rather than as an indication that the Ministry of Health is likely to be mainly responsible for a biological warfare project.

10. In addition to controlling, directly or indirectly, armament research and development projects, the Directorate also indirectly controls, through their parent ministries, many factories at present engaged on normal industrial production but scheduled for conversion to war production in an emergency. The Directorate is, in fact, responsible for planning all war production and potential, including the construction of many roads and railways.

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25X1 11. [redacted] the MVD is always responsible for the
25X1 early constructional stages of a new project. [redacted] a very
large proportion of the MVD labor camps are working on behalf of the
First Chief Directorate.

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25X1 12. [redacted] the First Chief Directorate holds the highest
priority in the Soviet Union for all supplies and resources and probably
plays a prominent part in the planning of reparations deliveries from
Germany, of which it certainly obtains the lion's share.

Personalities

13. The titular head of the First Chief Directorate is Lieut. Gen. Vannikov,
who takes his orders directly from Beriya.

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